May 11, 2017

From: Melissa Olmstead for Jean Guy Whiteduck, Chief of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

To: Nicole Frigault
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

By email: cnsc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca

Response to the letter sent to Kitigan Zibi - Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility Project

CEAA Reference number: 80122

Ms. Frigault,

This is a response to your letter dated February 28, 2017, regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility Project at the Chalk River Laboratories site. Please find attached a copy of your letter and our response. The hard copy is en route by mail.

KITIGAN ZIBI ANISHINABEG

P.O. Box 309, Maniwaki, QC J9E 3C9 Tel: (819) 449-5170 Fax: (819) 449-5673

Kitigan Zibi, May 9 2017.

Ms. Nicole Frigault
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Post Office Box 1046, Station B
280 Slater Street
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 5S9

Subject: Upcoming Public Comment Period on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility Project

Ms. Frigault,

The following is a response to your letter dated March 15 2017, regarding Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Near Surface Disposal Facility Project at the Chalk River Laboratories site. In this letter, you notify us that the CNSC is seeking comments for CNL's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this proposed project.

We thank you for arranging a meeting with Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and CNL to talk about this project and about the Nuclear Power Demonstration Facility decommissioning project. We found this meeting to be very informative, and we look forward to a potential future site visit at Chalk River Laboratories and possible field trip to observe the Chimney Swifts at the Rolphton site.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our concerns related to this project. For the Anishinabeg people, water is sacred and essential for all life. The Chalk River Laboratories Site is located in close proximity to waterways such as Perch Lake, Maskingonge Lake, and the Ottawa River, and as such we are deeply concerned about potential impacts of nuclear waste on the health of these waterways. We are also alarmed by the planned destruction of critical habitat for the Blanding's Turtle, which has been identified within the perimeter of the proposed disposal facility. All turtles are culturally very significant for the Anishinabeg people in general, and the protection of species at risk is highly important to our community in particular. Finally, as described in the following press release from the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador on May 2, 2017, we are opposed to the transport and storage of radioactive waste on First Nations ancestral lands.

We wish to reiterate that Kitigan Zibi never gave up nor sold our traditional ancestral territory. Our territory has never been under treaty and is subject to Algonquin Aboriginal Title. This implies the need for our consent for all development projects on our lands.

Please accept my best regards.
<Personal Information Redacted>

Jean Guy Whiteduck
Chief of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

c. c Adam Levine
Participant Funding Program Administrator and Aboriginal Consultation Advisor
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE AFNQL JOINS THE CONSENSUS AGAINST RADIOACTIVE WASTE TRANSPORT AND STORAGE ON FIRST NATIONS ANCESTRAL LANDS

Wendake, May 2, 2017 – As per stated in its position on Energy, the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) reconfirmed today its firm opposition to radioactive waste transport and storage on First Nations ancestral lands. Ratsénhaienhs Chief Clinton Phillips, from the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, joined other First Nations leaders today, in Lac Leamy, Quebec, to state that position on behalf of AFNQL.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission recently approved the transport of 23 thousand liters (6,000 gallons) of radioactive liquid to be transported by a series of 100 to 150 trucks from the Chalk River reactor, northwest of Ottawa to an American site in South Carolina (a route of over 2,000 km). The Iroquois Caucus, the Anishinabek Nation, the Chiefs of Ontario and the AFNQL have joined efforts today to denounce such a plan that would allow hazardous material to cross the Anishinabek and Mohawk ancestral lands.

"Their plan is to remove to 'old' waste that has been stored on-site since it opened. There is also a plan to bury the waste deep beneath the surface. Unfortunately, the planned site is next to the Ottawa River, where the Chalk River Site is located. We are absolutely against this plan. We invite our peoples, political leadership and other groups to join the consensus to oppose such a potentially damaging plan made out without even consulting us. Just a few ounces of this material could ruin an entire city's water supply. We will not let this happen", declared Chief Ratsénhaienhs Clinton Phillips, who holds the Environment Portfolio on behalf of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake.

"AFNQL Chiefs have made it crystal clear: nuclear waste storage and transportation is not an option for current generations, nor for future ones. Health, social and environmental costs would be too high. Only industries would benefit from such projects, leaving the population living with the impacts of their activities. We cannot afford to risk yet another disaster, as we believe in our responsibility as stewards of our lands", said the Chief of the AFNQL, Ghislain Picard.

As per constitutional law and the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, any development or project on First Nations ancestral lands must be approved by the concerned First Nation government.

About the AFNQL
The Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador is the political organization of 43 Chiefs of the First Nations in Quebec and Labrador. www.apnql-afnql.com

- 30 -

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